

**PL 527 “An Act to Amend Forester Licensing Requirements”**  
**Effective April 1, 2015**

PL 527 enacts several changes to the license qualifications for a forester license. Among the changes are:

1. Forestry experience (up to 12 months) may be earned prior to the issuance of an intern forester license. Specifically, an applicant with an associate’s degree in forestry may earn experience after the first year of the associate degree program and prior to graduation; an applicant with a bachelor’s degree or higher in forestry may earn experience after the junior year of the degree program and prior to graduation. Additionally, the experience must be earned under the supervision of a forester who has registered the unlicensed degree student with the Board as a “registered unlicensed person”
2. Qualifications for a forester or intern forester licensed in another jurisdiction amended. The two-pathways to licensure for a forester or intern forester licensed in another jurisdiction (reciprocal agreement between states or evidence that the applicant met all of the qualifications for licensure equivalent to those set for an intern forester or forester) were repealed and replaced by authority for the Board to adopt standards by rule.
3. Qualifications for an applicant who earned lawful prior professional forestry practice in another jurisdiction amended. An applicant who has earned at least 24 months of forestry experience in a jurisdiction that does not license foresters may waive the internship requirement by meeting standards adopted by the Board by rule.
4. Forestry practice earned as an employee of the Federal Government. A new pathway to licensure was enacted for federal employees. A federal employee with at least 24 months of forestry experience may waive the internship requirement. The Board is authorized to adopt rules to implement the new license pathway.
5. Examination Changes. An applicant with an associate’s degree or higher in a curriculum in forestry from a school or college approved by the Board is required to pass only the Maine-specific examination and may take the examination prior to completing the internship/forestry experience.
6. Requirement for 3 references repealed. An applicant will still be required to provide a reference from the sponsor.

Click [here](#) to view PL 527 in its entirety.

The Board will begin discussion of the necessary rulemaking at the June 26, 2014 meeting. For a complete list of the Board's meeting schedule for 2014 click [here](#).